

D-8260



File No.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Section 1, Special Branch *Station 11*
REPORT

Date December 28, 1937

Subject.... Communication dated 14-12-37 from the British Consulate-General
..... concerning Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Lebedeff.

Made by.... D.S.I. Prokofiev.

Forwarded by *C. Crawford W.*

Alexander Alexandrovich LEBEDEFF, Russian, was born on August 25, 1906 at Chita, Transbaikal Province, Siberia. According to his own statement, he left the U.S.S.R. for China in 1922 in order to join his father who at that time was employed at the Chinese Eastern Railway in Harbin. He received his education at a middle school in Harbin and subsequently studied in the Polytechnic Institute in that city graduating in 1930. In 1931 he married Miss M. I. Donetz, daughter of an engineer, a graduate of the Harbin Law Faculty (Oriental Section) and a teacher of Chinese in a local school of the Chinese Eastern Railway.

*6p7 5
M. - Harbin*

Lebedeff arrived in Shanghai from Harbin in August, 1931. Shortly afterwards he called at the Russian Emigrants' Committee, 118/1 Moulmein Road, and declared that he wished to renounce his Soviet citizenship and apply for an emigrants' passport. In a statement he made to the Committee on that occasion he explained that he had not renounced his Soviet citizenship before because it would have meant the loss of employment with the Chinese Eastern Railway to his father and would render it impossible for him to finish the Polytechnic Institute. He also produced a letter from Dr. Krivoroochko, local medical practitioner, to the effect that the latter knew him in Chita and Harbin as a "loyal person who did not belong to any communist organizations". His application was granted.

In Shanghai Lebedeff is reported to have been employed as an assistant engineer with the Mutual Investment Company for a short period. In 1934-1936 he worked in the same capacity for G.S. Borisoglebsky, Consulting Structural Engineer.

It is reported that towards the end of 1932, after

Copy sent

28/12

28/12

file

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Station,

REPORT

Date

19

Subject.....

-2-

Made by..... Forwarded by.....

a long period of illness the treatment of which by ordinary methods had been unsuccessful, he applied for treatment to the "Shanghai Institute of Natural Therapeutics", 106 Szechuen Road. Becoming interested in the "nature cure" he undertook a course of study of its methods. Subsequently, he is reported to have obtained a diploma from a similar institution in New York. In April, 1935 Dr. Buijs of the Shanghai Institute of Natural Therapeutics, established the "Nature Cure Institute" (Iridologists, Osteopaths, Chiropractors, Swedish Kasseurs, Specialists in Dietetics) at room 222 Sasson House. Lebedeff is known to have been working as an assistant of Dr. Buijs until the latter's departure for Australia in June, 1936, after which a certain Mr. C. JANSSEN took charge of the institute. Following the departure of Mr. Janssen for Australia during the earlier part of 1937, Lebedeff has been conducting this institute with the offices at 209 Yuen Ming Yuen Road, Room 305. It is reported that a part of the equipment was left to him by Mr. Janssen.

Lebedeff is a member of the Russian Engineers Society in Shanghai. He is described as a cultured person and is reported to have a keen interest in theosophy and occult sciences. In July, 1937 he actively participated in the establishment of the Vegetarian Society of China. His wife, Mrs Margareta Iosifovna Lebedeff, is reported to have been acting for some time as a secretary to Mr. A.F. Knudsen, of the Theosophical Society, 153 Nanking Road.

Mr. and Mrs Lebedeff at present reside at 1562 Avenue Joffre, Apt. A-5.

The particulars of Dr. Buijs and Mr. Janssen referred to above are as follows:-

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Station,

REPORT

Date 19

Subject.....

-3-

Made by.....

Forwarded by

1. Dr. BUIJS N.,M.D., M.S.F., M.A.,N.A., naturalised Australian of Netherlands origin. "nature cure practitioner."

2. Gerritt JANSSEN, Netherlands subject, born on December 23, 1910 at Doetrichem, "etherlands. After five years' service in the Netherlands' colonial army in the "etherlands East Indies, he was honorably discharged in 1934, when he made his way to Shanghai where he obtained the post of stable-manager to the Shanghai Milk Supply Company. This position he held until the end of 1935, when he established himself as a "nature cure" practitioner at 221/222 Sassoon House in conjunction with Dr. Buijs. He was in possession of a certificate issued by the Smae Institute at Leatherhead (England) and one from the British Naturopathic College of London, which were given him after he had studied for eighteen months in his spare time and passed examinations held under the supervision of Dr. Buijs.

In September, 1936 Janssen was warned by the local Netherlands Consular authorities to cease operating as a "nature cure practitioner". In his reply, he stated that the only work that he was carrying out was connected with the duties of a masseur pending Dr. Buijs' return to Shanghai.

In January, 1937 a complaint was received by the Commissioner of Public Health, S.M.C., to the effect that Janssen, owing to apparent ignorance in dealing with a case of communicable disease, unnecessarily exposed a number of persons to infection.

Neither Buijs, nor Janssen nor Lebedeff appear on the Register of medical practitioners etc. published by the Shanghai Municipal Council which constitutes the only official record of approved practitioners.

Nothing detrimental is known by this office regarding Mr. and Mrs. Lebedeff.

D.C. (Special Branch)

G. Prokopius
D.S.I.

THE CHINA PRESS, SUNDAY, JULY 11, 1937

Vegetarians In Shanghai Form Society

No More Fish, Flesh, Fowl Is Battlecry Of Organization

A united front against flesh, fish and fowl was adopted at a meeting held in the office of the Shanghai Sanitarium, and Hospital, Sassoon House, this week when the Vegetarian Society of China was organized.

The decision to organize followed a highly successful meatless dinner party last week attended by many leaders among local theosophists, nature-curers, Brahmins and plain vegetarians. The organization was proposed by Mr. A. A. Lebedeff of the Nature Cure Institute and an organizing committee was named, drawing final plans for the society at a later meeting in the Sanitarium.

The President for the ensuing year is Dr. Leslie H. Butka, 226 Sassoon House, and the Vice-President, Mr. A. Kwan, 418 Hart Road. Other officers are: Measra. Lebedeff and Pu-tsu Chao, joint secretaries; treasurer, Dr. Charles L. Dale;

directors, Y. T. Hu, R. McG. Wright, A. Kalambi.

The immediate aim of the society is to see that Shanghai is liberally supplied with vegetarian cook books. Eventually a vegetarian restaurant and perhaps even a hotel are hoped for. Their slogan is: "Health, Refinement, Economy and Ethics."

Among those at the first meeting was:

Dr. L. H. Butka; Dr. Charles Dale; Mr. Kwan, sec. of the Pure Karma League; Mr. Kalambi, of the Dharma-loka Society; Mr. H. B. Campbell, Pres. of the Shanghai Theosophical Society; Mr. Y. T. Hu, Editor of the Buddhist Daily News; Mrs. Hu; Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Knudsen of the Theosophical Society in America; Mr. M. Anthony, Mr. R. McG. Wright; Mr. A. A. Lebedeff of the Nature-Cure Institute; Mr. Pu-tsu Chao, sec. of the Pure Karma League; Mr. Krishnan of the local Brahmin colony.

VEGETARIAN SOCIETY ORGANIZED HERE

Various Nationalities Participating In Local Group

The Vegetarian Society of China, an organization comprising various nationalities, was formed at a meeting held on Tuesday at the Kun-dahling Vegetarian Restaurant, Park Road. Mr. A. A. Lebedeff reviewed the question of Vegetarianism and proposed to the group that a society be organized to sponsor the movement.

Among those attending were Dr. L. H. Butka, Dr. Charles Dale, Mr. Kwan, Mr. Kalambi, Mr. H. G. Campbell, Mr. Y. T. Hu, Mrs. Hu, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Knudsen, Mr. M. Anthony, Mr. R. M. Wright, Mr. Lebedeff, Mr. Pu-tsu Chao and Mr. Krishnan.

The form of organization provides that the president and vice-president shall be a foreigner and a Chinese, alternating each year. There are two secretaries for the two languages, English and Chinese.

Officers elected for the ensuing year were Dr. L. H. Butka, president, Mr. Kwan, vice-president, Messrs. Lebedeff and Pu-tsu Chao, joint secretaries, Dr. C. L. Dale, treasurer, and Messrs. Y. T. Hu, Mr. R. M. Wright and Mr. Kalambi, directors.



PASSPORT & REGISTRATION OFFICE,
BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL,
P.O. BOX 259,
SHANGHAI.

14th December, 1937.

Dear Mr. MacDermott,

I enclose herein in original a despatch from the Hongkong authorities and I should be grateful if you could in due course let me have a report regarding Mr. and Mrs. Alexander A. Lebedeff.

Will you kindly return the despatch with your // reply.

Yours sincerely,

*Returned
with copy
of report.*

*R. S. Heaney
Via Cunard.*

SI

P.D. & D.C. (C.M.)

*W.J. MacDermott, Esq.,
Shanghai Municipal Police,
SHANGHAI.*

*A.C. J. Lebedeff.
C. 15/12*

MR. A. J.